The Digital University in Africa
A British Council funded project

'Digital, Universities, and Change: recommendations for digital transformation'

At Jisc, as the UK's digital agency for lifelong learning and research, we believe education and research improves lives, and technology improves research and education. Key to our vision is advocacy and thought leadership, with our global partners, collaborators and networks.

Our project, 'Digital, Universities, and Change: recommendations for digital transformation' focuses on two of the three work strands outlined in the British Council call to action on the Digital University in Africa:

1. **National and institutional digital related policy and strategy for university leaders and policy-makers**
2. **Digital literacy, skills and competencies of academics, professional services and university leadership**

Our objectives for this work are summarised by the following:
- Digital dissonance: Looking for gaps between policy, aspiration, and practice in the deployment of digital education;
- Support for senior leaders and staff to further develop their digital capabilities to enable a digitally capable university; and
- Making recommendations for longer-term collaborations through building trusted relationship, and creating opportunities for thought leadership between the UK and SSA

We have been fortunate to work with partners in two of the countries that we are working in, Saide in South Africa, and Eko-Konnect in Nigeria. In both of these countries we have run workshops with both staff and senior leaders, building on our digital skills and capabilities work here in the UK. We have looked at establishing a common vocabulary, introducing digital capability, self-assessment of digital capabilities and access to supporting resources for use in their respective universities and organisations.

For the digital dissonance work, working in Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya and Ghana we have researched policy and strategy for digital education, identifying the drivers and engaging with stakeholders across the university and government sector and conducting a series of interviews to explore digital education and transformation in more depth. We have started to identify barriers and enablers, including the huge challenges of digital inequity which are not dissimilar to the UK.

We have created an exceptional network of partners in all countries, and following delivery of our report and recommendations at the end of July, we anticipate future collaborations in the areas of digital capabilities, transformation and digital leadership.